Insurance Laws and its Enforcement

1287. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to newsitem captioned "Insure and be insecure" appearing in the 'Blitz' dated January 4-10, 1997;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that victim of the forfeiture clause in the insurance policies are more often persons belonging to poor and weaker sections including the women; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The forfeiture clause in the life insurance policies is generally applicable when either the premiums are not paid within the grace period or it is found that the proposal contains an untrue or incorrect statement or a material information has been withheld. These contingencies may arise in case of any policy, irrespective of the sex or economic status of the persons taking the policy. However, LIC has taken several measures to alleviate the hardship caused to the policyholders due to strict application of the forfeiture clause; such as making ex-gratia payments, subject to certain conditions, even when the policies lapse within the period of 3 years; and by taking a sympathetic view of the repudiated claims belonging to people from lower strata of society at the time of their review by the Zonal and Central Office Claims Review Committees.

RBI Assistance for Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Bank

1288. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Bank has sought assistance from the RBI in order to comply with its prudential norms;

(b) if so, whether the RBI has agreed to provide assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Bank has not sought any assistance from it.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Pilferage of Coal

1289. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of coal theft came to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the estimated quantum of coal lost in such pilferage, looting and mafia activities during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the amount of loss incurred as a result thereof during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) It is not possible to know the details of theft of coal taking place as such operations are carried out clandestinely. On the basis of raids conducted by company's security forces, Central Industrial Security Forces etc. and coal recovered by them 2713, 2096 and 1608 cases of theft and recovery of coal have come to notice during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. The quantum of coal recovered in the corresponding period and its value, statewise is as under :

State	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96		
	No. of Cases	Qty. Recovered (Tonnes)	Value of Coal Recovered (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of Cases	Qty. Recovered	Value of Coal Recovered (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of Cases	Qty. Recovered (Tonnes)	Value of Coal Recovered (Rs. in Lakh)
Bihar	262	10,234	61.99	211	3,577	18.24	206	3,740	20.65
West Ben.	2,412	21,890	113.28	1,843	19,336	98.14	1,371	12,133	61.77
M.P.	17	331	1.97	28	115	0.69	15	111	0.94
M.S.	2	12	0.06	2	4	0.03	4	26	0.11
Orissa	20	143	0.89	10	171	0.80	12	50	0.20
Assam	-	-	-	2	103	0.47	-	-	-
Total	2,713	32,610	178.19	2,096	23,306	118.37	1,608	16,060	83.67

(d) The steps taken to prevent such activities are :

1. Construction/erection of fencing wall around the coal stocks.
2. Installation of check posts on the main roads leading to collieries.
3. Installation of watch towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stocking areas.
4. Collection of intelligence.
5. Surprise checks alongwith local police and colliery security personnel.
6. Round the clock patrolling by colliery security personnel.
7. Meeting with District Authorities for drawing out plan to eliminate the menance.
8. Lodging of FIRs with local police.

12.01 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: SITTING OF LOK SABHA

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have a small announcement to make.I would like to inform the House that as is customary, the House would adjourn at 4.00 p.m. today to re-assemble at 5.00 p.m. for presentation of the General Budget. Today being a Friday, as per the past precedent, the Private Members' Business would be taken up at 2.00 p.m. and will conclude at 4.00 p.m.

12.1½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Notifications under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Annual Accounts and statement regarding Review by the Government of the Audited Accounts of the Coir Board, Cochin for the year 1995-96 and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :

(i) S.O. 827(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1996 containing Order notifying the Pratap Paper Mills Limited, Jantipur, Punjab as a mill producing newsprint.

(ii) S.O. 828(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1996 containing Order notifying the Kamakshi Papers (P) Limited, Gajraula, Uttar Pradesh as a mill producing newsprint.

(iii) S.O. 52(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 1997 containing Order notifying the M/s. B.V.V. Paper Industries Limited, Marichinaicken-Palayam, Tamil Nadu as a mill producing newsprint.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1400/97]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Cochin, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the Audited Accounts of the Coir Board, Cochin, for the year 1995-96.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1401/97]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Engineering Export Council, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1436/97]

Notifications under section 31of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and Annual Reports and Accounts of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1996 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : On behalf